



STATE OF VERMONT  
Department of Education  
120 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

**VERMONT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Vermont State House, Room 11, Montpelier**  
**October 16, 2007**

*The State Board of Education shall sustain a vision of high skills, creative thinking, and love of knowledge and learning for every student by setting education policy that ensures student achievement in a safe and healthy learning environment.*

**Approved Minutes – October 16, 2007**

**Present: Board Members: Chris Robbins; Kathy Larsen; Jessica Bullock; Vice-Chair Ruth Stokes; Chair Tom James; Brian Vachon; Bill Corrow; Tess Savage; Susan Schill;**  
**Absent: Fayneese Miller**

**DOE: Commissioner Richard Cate; Jill Remick; Carol King; Mark Oettinger; Kerry Garber; Jim Squires; Manuela Fonseca; Bill Romond; Brian O'Regan; Heather Schneider**

**Other: Charles Parmalee, ACT; Jackie Twiggs, ACT; Rep. Peter Peltz; Claire Buckley, Kimball, Sherman, Ellis; Dwight Davis, VISA; Angelo Dorta, VT-NEA; Mel Huff, Times Argus; John Nelson, VSBA; David Cyprian, VSA/VSBA/VPA; Retta Dunlap, VBE; Martha Frank, VPIC; students; parents**

**Preliminaries**

**Item A: Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance**

Tom James, chair called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Item B: Roll Call and Introductions**

Chair James and Board members introduced themselves.

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**Item C: Public to be Heard**

There were no comments from the public at this time.

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**Item D: Announcements (Chair, Board Members)**

Brian Vachon and Tom James attended the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) conference in Pennsylvania. James and Vachon noted similarities between the Board's transformation conversations and the national movement. Kathy Larsen attended the NASBE/CDC-sponsored Healthy Eating Symposium in Philadelphia that proceeded NASBE's annual meeting.

**Item E: Board Member Updates (Chair, Board Members)**

Bill Corrow told the Board the Ad Hoc World Language Committee dissolved back in March. No general consensus could be met. Corrow noted the place World Language and International Education could have in the Transformation document, and commended the Commissioner for his work in advancing this topic.

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**Item F: September Monthly Report**

Chair James reminded the audience that this report is an opportunity for the Board to share its work with its constituencies as part of the Board's communications strategy and to keep the Board's work in the public eye. It is also available on the Department of Education's Web site: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html>.

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**Item G: Commissioner's Update (Richard Cate)**

Commissioner Richard Cate attended a ceremony honoring a Middlebury teacher at Mary Hogan Elementary School with the USDOE American Star Teacher Award.

The Department of Education is currently housed in two different locations due to limited space at 120 State Street, and will continue to be in the near future. Department staff is currently providing input to the commissioner in regards to where Department teams should be located. Cate and O'Regan are soliciting staff comment on which teams should be located in which location to best utilize the spaces but more importantly better execute the DOE mission and to support the transformation work. A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday with representatives from each team.

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**Action Items**

**Item H: Consent Agenda**

**Document(s):** Consent Agenda items

**Motion:** Schill moved, Robbins seconded to approve the consent agenda with comment.

**1. Minutes of September 18, 2007 SBE Meeting**

**2. Minutes of October 3, 2007 Special Meeting**

Comments re 9/18/07 minutes:

Page 3, Item I, after "nothing new in the document," add "however, the superintendent agreed with the document and supported the content within it."

Page 5, discussion item A: "will now work ON," not "OF"

The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

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**Discussion Items**

**Item I: Pre K Rules (Richard Cate, Mark Oettinger, Jim Squires, Manuela Fonseca)**

**Document(s):** White Sheet; Draft PreK Rules

**Discussion:** Commissioner Cate updated the Board on the ongoing Pre-K rule process and meetings. Affordability is key in the statute, which allows local school districts to send children to be educated elsewhere. Individual placement is also up to the local school district. John Nelson takes issue with the appeal process, and feels it goes beyond what was outlined in the statute. Most of the issues regarding the funding mechanism appear to be resolved. However, some advocates are seeking additional changes. Claire Buckley, KSE, Child Care Fund of Vermont, spoke regarding Draft 5.1 indicating that CCFVT has serious concerns on the funding article, stating that the current language on the page is not what they agree with. The Pre-K Legislative committee will meet again prior to the next Board meeting when it is anticipated that the Board will vote on initiating the rule making process.

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**Items J: Desired State Discussion with Students and Parents: *How Are the Children? A Step toward the Transformation of Education in Vermont*** (Board Members, Richard Cate, Brian O'Regan, Students)

**Discussion:** Members of the Department's leadership team acted as facilitators during these roundtable discussions. Thirty students from Central Vermont high schools came to the meeting to participate in these sessions. Two Board members were at each discussion group. Following the hour-long discussions in break-out groups, Board members reported out on what their groups discussed. Questions addressed included:

- What has really worked for me in school?
  - What has been challenging for me in school?
  - What would make school a better place for students to learn?
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Lunch - Students and parents attending the meeting joined Board members for lunch.

Member Jessica Bullock left the meeting.

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**Item K: Desired State Discussion with Parents - *How Are the Children? A Step toward the Transformation of Education in Vermont*** (Board Members, Richard Cate, Brian O'Regan, Parents)

**Discussion:** Members of the DOE Leadership Team and Board members acted as facilitators during these roundtable discussions. Several parents who were invited came to the meeting to participate. Following the hour-long discussions in break-out groups, Board members reported out on what their groups discussed. Topics addressed included:

- What current practices would you like to see established system wide?
  - What new practices would you like to see established system wide?
  - What questions does the document raise for you as a parent?
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**Item O: Wrap Up and Future Agendas** (Richard Cate, Carol King)

**Document(s):**

**Discussion:** The Board reviewed the proposed items for its November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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**Adjourn**

**Motion:** At 3:25 p.m., Robbins moved, Schill seconded, to adjourn the October 16th meeting of the State Board of Education, The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

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**Item P: Written Items Attached**

Overview of Revisions to Construction Rules (Cathy Hilgendorf)

Science Alignment Study (Standards & Assessment Team)

Minutes prepared by Carol King/Jill Remick